



 [®] **ASPIRA**
of Illinois

Property Management Training Program

This program is a coalition between Aspira and the Hispanic Development Corporation, Property Management Resource Centers, the Department of Housing, Chicago Housing Authority and the Department of Purchasing and Contracts. It is designed to increase the number of minority property managers. Aspira is responsible for the recruitment of eligible college and high students into the training workshops and seminars. Students are exploring property management as a career while receiving training from professionals.



Aspira Programs 1995-1996 Leadership Development Institute

The Aspira leadership Development (LDI) operates under the belief that the most efficient way of advancing the Puerto Rican and Latino communities economically is through the development of leadership skills and values among its youth. It currently has chapters in fourteen Chicago Public Schools. Program participants are given opportunities to plan and implement club activities and service projects in their school and communities. Nearly 600 students participate in the program each year.

The Aspira National Health Careers Program

National Health Careers Program is coordinated by the National Office. Its primary objective is to increase the number of Latino and other minority youth entering health professions unit. Counselors work with students at the secondary and post-secondary levels, providing a comprehensive network of services that includes SAT and MCAT review courses, college placement assistance, career and health conferences, workshops on the medical school application process, and trips to medical schools. The program is currently funded by the U.S. Public Health Administration.



Aspira Public Policy Leadership Program (APPLP)

The APPLP works with the Latino high school students to help them learn about the process of public policy formulation and to develop leadership skills to facilitate their entry into the public policy area on the local, regional and national levels. The APPLP is designed as a comprehensive program that includes leadership orientation, community service experience, and national internships.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Aspira National

ASPIRA HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

Founded in 1968, Aspira is a Puerto Rican not-for-profit organization committed to the development and self-determination of the Latino community through education, leadership and the intellectual development of Latinos in the State of Illinois. Through our work over 2,000 youths a year acquire the education and skills they need for successful careers.

The Puerto Rican and Latino youth engaging in our programs learn what we call the "Aspira Process," which is our philosophy of leadership development. This process exposes students to the concepts of awareness, analysis, and action. First, students are taught to become aware of their cultural, racial and ethnic histories. Then students begin the process of finding out about themselves, about other cultures, and about the world around them. Finally, students put the knowledge and skills they acquired to use for the benefit of self and others, especially of their families and communities.

After undergoing the "Aspira Process," our youth become culturally aware, educated, committed leaders, willing to share their talents with their communities.

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Talent Search Program

The primary objective of the Talent Search Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is to encourage students in eight target high schools and two elementary schools to stay in school, graduate from high school, and pursue higher education. Talent Search counselors provide information on opportunities in higher education; assist with applications for admissions and financial aid; and assist with ACT and SAT test preparation. In 1993-94 services were provided to 800 students.

Drug Abuse Prevention Program

Drug Abuse Prevention promotes health and positive alternatives to substance abuse among Latino youth. The program offers workshops and activities that address self-esteem, enhancement, cultural identity, and health issues such as AIDS and teen pregnancy. Over 2,000 youth and parents are served each year.



Family Math/Science Program Aspira of Illinois'

Family Math/Science Centers, encourage young Latino children to study and explore the worlds of science and mathematics. The program uses high school peer tutors to provide academic support to 80 grade school students and their parents. Aspira has also initiated a pre-freshman computer science enrichment program for bilingual students in conjunction with Loyola University. The Loyola program gives special consideration to students who are not likely to be accepted in other such programs because of limited English proficiency.

Aspira Alternative High School

The Aspira Alternative High School is a state-certified, diploma granting school that serves youth between the ages of 16-21 who have been officially dropped from the public school system. Aspira Alternative incorporates a curriculum based on improving basic skills and developing social, personal, and career goals. The program is funded by City Colleges of Chicago through its Truants' Alternative and Optional Educational Program and by the Chicago Public School System.

Aspira Parents For Educational Excellence (APEX)

APEX is a new community organizing initiative. The program, coordinated by the ASPIRA National Office, trains parents to work together to improve education in their communities and mobilize other parents to join in their efforts. APEX is an initiative to transfer the ASPIRA Process youth leadership development model to parent groups.

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